THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In addition to quarantine and other logistic problems and the possibility of psychological set back this might cause to the indigenous efforts for increased production of oilseeds, the overall economics of import of oil seeds has, by and large. not been found favourable.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Poverty Line

5527. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR:
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria and formula for poverty line computation suggested by Task Force in 1979;

(b) the extent to which it is adequate in view of the rising prices;

(c) the steps taken to update the formula in the present context; and

(d) the number of persons likely to be benefited by the raising poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b). The Task Force on Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand defined the poverty line as per capita monthly expenditure of Rs. 49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 in urban areas, at 1973-74 prices, corresponding to the per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 in rural areas and 2100 in urban areas. The poverty line is updated regularly for price rise, using the private consumption deflator derived from the National Accounts series.

(c) and (d). An Expert Group on Estimation of proportion and number of poor has been appointed "to look into the methodology for estimation of poverty at national and State level and also to go into the question of re-defining poverty line, if necessary. The report of the Expert Group is awaited.

[*English*]

Feasibility study of Turning saline water into potable water

5528. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any feasibility study on turning saline water into potable water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to evolve a water grid to ensure sound water management techniques in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) and (b). Based on the discussions with the concerned State Governments, study of chemistry of raw water, design of the plant to bring down total dissolved solids within permissible limit, selection of site, resolution by the village panchayat for agreeing to have a treatment

plant, etc., the Government had decided to set up 152 desalination plants for converting saline water into potable water. Out of these, 134 plants have been set up so far.

(c) and (d). The national perspective plan for water resources development prepared by the Government, envisages interlinkages between the major rivers of the Peninsular region and between the Himalayan rivers separately for transfer of water from surplus to water short areas. This involves conducting studies and preparing feasibility reports for optimum utilisation of available waters. Preliminary feasibility reports have been completed for 7 transfer links out of the 17 such links envisaged under Peninsular river component. Implementation of water transfer links depends on preparation of the detailed project reports and the consensus/agreement amongst the basin States.

Tripartite Industrial Committee on Electricity Generation

5529. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:
SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESHWARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a tripartite industrial committee on electricity generation and distribution;

(b) if so, the details of the members of the Committee;

(c) the scope and functions of the Committee;

(d) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report; and

(e) the extent to which it will be helpful for both power and coal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) In pursuance of the recommendation of the meeting of the Special Tripartite Committee held on December 21, 1991 that Industrial Committes be revived in respect of industries in which sickness in endemic, the Industrial Committee on Electricity Generation and Distribution was reconstituted on March 31, 1992.

(b) The composition of the Committee is given in the attached statement.

(c) to (e). The functions of an Industrial Committee are in general to study and discuss the problems of the industry concerned with a view to bringing about a better understanding of the problems among the parties, rendering advice in solving the problems and reaching a consensus of views.